

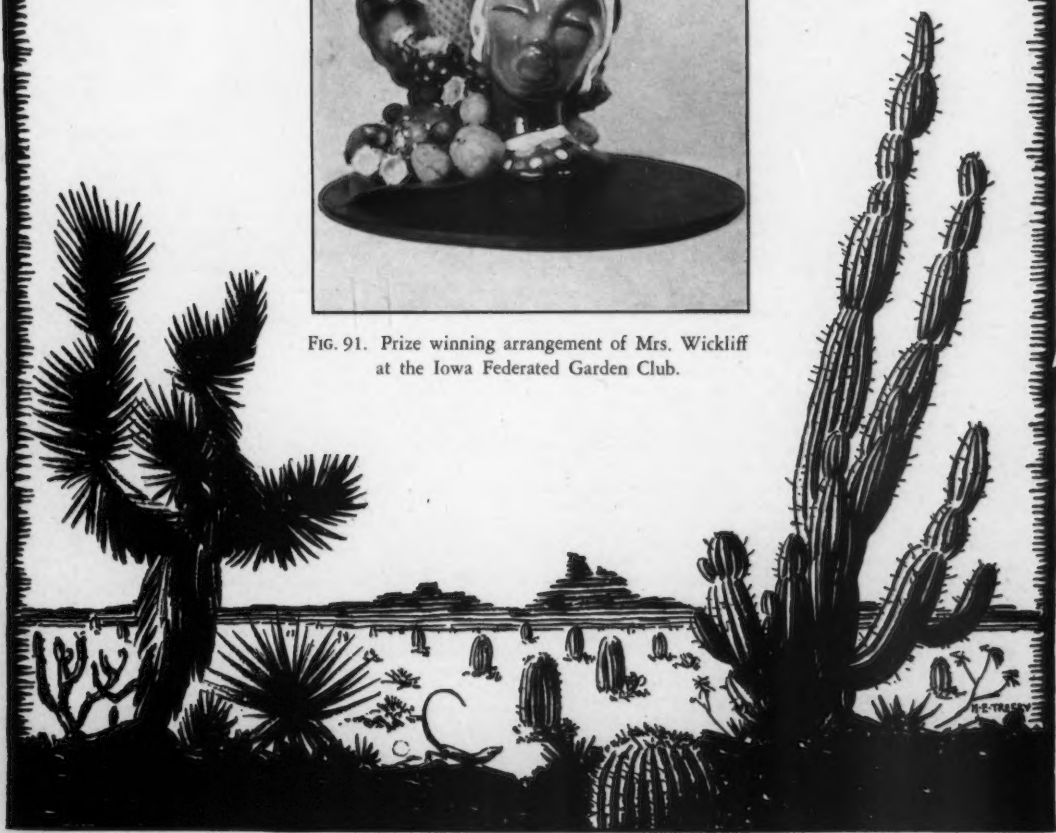
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL

Of the Cactus And Succulent Society
Of America

Vol. XVII NOVEMBER, 1945 No. 11



FIG. 91. Prize winning arrangement of Mrs. Wickliff
at the Iowa Federated Garden Club.



CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL

Published and Owned by the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc., Box 101, Pasadena 16, California. A monthly magazine to promote the Society and devoted to Cacti and Succulents for the dissemination of knowledge and the recording of hitherto unpublished data in order that the culture and study of these particular plants may attain the popularity which is justly theirs. Subscription \$3.00 per year. Foreign \$3.00 per year by international money order. Membership in the Cactus Society free with subscription. Mail application to SCOTT HASELTON, Editor, Box 101, Pasadena 16, Calif. Editorial Staff: THE ENTIRE SOCIETY. Entered as Second Class Matter at Pasadena, Calif., under act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. XVII

NOVEMBER, 1945

No. 11

<i>Trichocereus coquimbatus</i>	W. Taylor Marshall	147
Orchid Cacti in Mexico	T. Macdougall	149
<i>Adromischus sphenophyllus</i>	J. R. Brown	150
Do You Know Your Bromeliads?	Mulford B. Foster	152
Cacti in England	E. Shurly	155
Affiliate Notes	Charles A. Place	157
Cereusly Speaking	John E. C. Rodgers	158
Spine Chats	Ladislav Cutak	159

SUCCULENTS SCORE AGAIN

By MARY NAYLOR

Succulents and cacti again came into the limelight by providing unusual material for flower arrangements by the winning of the most outstanding exhibit award at the Iowa Federated Garden Club holiday show at Ames, Iowa, last November. The exhibit was entered by Mrs. Glen G. Wickliff, a member of the Des Moines Cactus Society in a class calling for the portrayal of a book title. Mrs. Wickliff made the arrangement to stand for the title of the book "Strange Fruit." The story has to do with the life of a colored woman, so Mrs. Wickliff used the figurine of a colored girl resembling Carmen Miranda backed by unusual fruit including the fruit of *Opuntia* and *Cereus*. The award which was a Persian copper bowl was the second one which Mrs. Wickliff has won for outstanding merit in a state show, both of which contained succulent and cactus material.

Again we reiterate that the use of cacti and succulents plays a most important part in flower arrangement by providing unusual material upon which many judges believe to create interest.

The Des Moines Cactus and Succulent Society has recently become affiliated with the Iowa Federated Garden Clubs and the members will lend a new interest to the organization's exhibitions by using cactus material in their displays. Recently the Des Moines Garden Club presented a flower festival at the Yonker Department store. In the china department was a group of table settings which included a "Good Neighbor" buffet table done by Mrs. Wickliff. She used the Mexican blue glass on a coarse Mexican woven table cloth. The center of interest fell on two Mexican metal containers in the form of setting hens. These were filled with plants of *Agave americana* spikes, *Kalanchoe tomentosa*, and *Kalanchoe marmorata* plants. Lantana blossoms gave vivid color to the arrangements but many people paused to comment on the use of succulents for table settings and their lasting quality. The usual use of flowers which die or fade within a short time, was overcome by the use of succulents which lent not only color but interesting form.

Another spot in the festival was an arrangement of cacti and succulents in the Mexican department done by Mrs. O. E. Kellar. On a huge Mexican platter of brown and black and green design, Mrs. Kellar used the tall *Agave* spikes, *Opuntia microdasy* pads, and

Echeveria rosei. This gave a most colorful and typical atmosphere to the Mexican shop. Many people expressed their surprise at the beautiful arrangement available through the use of cacti and succulents.

The Des Moines organization hopes that other cactus societies are making use of plant material as in showing to the public the beauty of these exotic plants not only in gardens and as house plants but as background for flower designs.

BALLOT

For Officers and Board for 1946 of the CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. (As provided in Article VII, Sec. 2 of the By-Laws of the SOCIETY, all nominations together with a blank space for write-in for each office shall be mailed to each member. The ballot must be returned to the Secretary, Ethel Rush, 820 W. 115 St., Los Angeles, Calif., before midnight, Dec. 15, 1945. If ballot is returned, mark an X after the nominee or write in the name of your nominee in the space provided therefor and mark an X after the name so written. A signed post card marked "I vote for the officers as nominated" will constitute a ballot.

President

MRS. MAYBELLE PLACE [....]

Vice-President

CARL BRASSFIELD [....]

Secretary

MRS. ETHEL RUSH [....]

Treasurer

MRS. JUNE KELLY [....]

Board of Directors: (vote for 3)

HOMER RUSH [....]

GEORGE LINDSAY [....]

EDWARD TAYLOR [....]

Your nominating committee, having considered the efficiency of the incumbent officers and the desirability and even necessity of having officers familiar with the entire society at the helm to prepare for the second national convention, recommend the above as nominees for officers for 1946.



FIG. 92

Trichocereus coquimbamus (Molina) Br. & R. A plant in the author's garden in fruit and flower. In the background *Trichocereus pachanoi* Br. & R.

Photo by Haselton.

Trichocereus coquimbamus

By W. TAYLOR MARSHALL

Trichocereus coquimbamus (Molina) Br. & R.
Cactaceae II:139. 1920

Cereus coquimbamus Molina, Sagg. Stor. Nat. Chil.
170. 1782

Cereus nigripilis Philippi, Flor. Atac. 23. 1860.

Cereus coquimbamus Schumann, Gesamtb. Kakteen.
58. 1897.

Cereus chilensis nigripilis Hirscht, Monatsschr.
Kakteenk. VIII:159. 1898

Cereus nigripilis Schumann, Gesamtb. Kakteen,
Nachtrage. 20. 1902

Plant low-growing, branching from the base to form dense thickets, the branches procumbent, ascending or erect, to 1 meter high and 7 to 8 cm. in diameter; ribs 12 to 19, yellowish-green, low, rounded and with cross furrows between areoles; areoles large, about 2 cm. apart, bearing brownish wool; radial spines 16 to 25, acicular, at first yellowish then brown to gray; central spines 3 to 7, subulate at first yellow then horn-colored to gray, the upper ones to

5 cm. long; flowers funnellform, 10 to 12 cm. long, the ovary and tube scaly, the scales bearing numerous brown to black hairs in their axils; outer perianth segments oblanceolate, obtuse, slightly apiculate, rose-pink with wide, brown mid stripes; inner perianth segments acute, white; filaments green in throat of flower, cream-colored above; anthers cream; style greenish; stigma lobes 15, cream; fruit globose, dark green, bearing a few minute scales which subtend a few short hairs.

This description was drawn from a plant in my collection which was grown from seed by George Mosner of Los Angeles and it agrees with the descriptions of Schumann, Britton and Rose, Backeberg and Knuth in *Kaktus A.B.C.*, and Borg in *Cacti*, in all essential particulars.

Type locality: Coquimbo to Paposo, Chile.

Distribution: Along the coast of the province of Coquimbo, Chile.

Eulychnia spinibarbis, whose type locality is Coquimbo and which has the same distribution as *Trichocereus coquimbani* has often been confused with it. Schumann in *Gesamtbeschreibung der Kakteen*, page 58 listed and described *Cereus coquimbani* but picked up the description of *Cereus spinibarbis* flower which he illustrated (Fig. 11) as *Cereus coquimbani*.

Later in his *Nachtrage* on page 20 he lists *Cereus nigripilis* with the identical description he gave for *Cereus coquimbani* but with the proper flower description.

Britton and Rose in *Cactaceae* II:82 note Schumann's error and assign his Fig. 11 to *Eulychnia spinibarbis* but themselves fall into error by illustrating a cutting of *E. spinibarbis* (Fig. 201) as *Trichocereus coquimbani* while on the next page (139) they illustrate a typical plant of that species.

Both the last mentioned illustration (*Cactaceae* II:139, Fig. 202) and the illustration in Schumann's *Nachtrage* (page 21, Fig. 3), which was copied from *Monatsschrift der Kakteenkunde* XI:27, show plants with 16 to 19 ribs and the notation of 12 ribs in both Schumann's and Britton and Rose's description can be explained only as the result of confusion with *Eulychnia spinibarbis*.

The plant is very easily grown in our gardens. Borg in *Cacti* notes, "Prefers a moist sandy soil, and full sunshine," as might be expected from Schumann's illustration above quoted which shows a large colony of the plants on the sea-shore just above high water mark.

The Amateur Bulletin (1942).

Valuable for beginners.....	Cloth	2.10
<i>Cacti for the Amateur</i>	Paper \$1.05; Cloth	2.10
<i>Succulents for the Amateur</i>	Paper \$1.55; Cloth	2.10
Box 101 — Pasadena 16 — California		

BOOK NOTES

Now that the dreaded inflation is on its way it is bound to affect the price of books. We have absorbed all of the steadily advancing costs, always hoping that prices would be stabilized. Materials and labor have already advanced more than 20% and this must eventually be added onto the cost of books. We are listing a few books each month that you should have in your library; we cannot advise you too strongly to secure them now.

We are glad to announce that the cloth for binding the *Journals* has arrived after a six-months wait. Our bookbinder is hurrying them through so that we will soon be able to return them to you. Now is the time to check over your back issues and to secure the ones you are short; after December 31 we will have only bound copies available and probably at an advanced price. If you will tell us your needs we will quote you prices. The *Journals* are a good investment and are worth twice what you have paid for them. Volume I will advance to \$50 after the first of the year. Send your want list to Box 101, Pasadena, now.

ANNOUNCING

"Succulent Plants" by W. Taylor Marshall with 140 three-dimension, full color stereoscopic illustrations by Rupert Leach. Published for Sawyer's, Portland, Oregon, at Abbey Garden Press. Price \$11.50 with View-Master.

The publication of this book marks a unique and important forward step in the technique of book illustration. Here for the first time the reader may see full-color, photographic, Kodachrome illustrations of text material in the true-to-life realism of third dimension. Natural history students, horticulturalists, flower and plant lovers, as well as the general reader will, we hope, find in this volume and the stereoscopic illustrations which accompany it, a new appreciation of the beauty of form and color of cacti and other succulent plants as well as an accurate knowledge of the terrain to which these plants are native. Almost four years were spent in making the hundreds of three-dimension, full-color photographs from which one hundred and forty were selected to illustrate this text.

The View-Master stereoscope and 20 stereoscopic reels which come with, and are a part of this book, make possible the unusual illustrative method used. The reels contain the one hundred and forty serially numbered pictures referred to in the text matter. As each picture comes into viewing position in the View-Master stereoscope, information relative to the plant shown appears in the caption window of the viewer. No other projector or equipment is needed.

Order your copy for Christmas delivery direct from Abbey Garden Press. Send no money until you receive the book and the views which will be sent by Express with the invoice.

A NEW SUPPLY

"The Cultivation of Succulents" by Jacobsen is again available. This 104 page book was translated from the German by Vera Higgins and provides general cultural directions including chapters on: Imported plants, Seed production, Propagation by seeds, Vegetative propagation, Diseases and pests, and Labeling. There are 8 pages of illustrations. Price \$1.65 postpaid in U.S.A. Foreign \$1.75.

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Orchid Cacti of Mexico

By T. MacDOUGALL

Charles L. Gilly, Sr. rendered good service with his thorough description of *Epiphyllum Ackermannii*, from definitely wild material.* Gilly, working in the field, apparently did not check the classification of *E. Ackermannii*. Britton and Rose considered it a hybrid and the Br. and R. key does not admit *E. Ackermannii* into *Epiphyllum*. In "Hortus Second" Dr. Elzada Clover places it in *Nopalxochia*.

Plants of *E. Ackermannii* and *Nopalxochia phyllanthoides* are certainly very much alike and indicate close affinity between the two species. However, flowers observed on *E. Ackermannii*, from the Jalapa district in Veracruz, have been nearly rotate, and, on this basis, with the system of classification now in use, *E. Ackermannii* perhaps should be in a monotypic genus.

My impression is that true *E. Ackermannii* is almost unknown under cultivation in the U. S. Catalog descriptions, color photographs, (e.g. the reproduction in "Arizona Highways" Ap. 1945) and plants grown here in the east, apparently can be referred to an old hybrid—*E. Jenkensonii*? Perhaps even this "old hybrid" could prove to be a good species—of *Heliocereus*?

Plants that flower for me here in New York are from one of the plants sent in by Gilly, and from cuttings obtained in the "Jardin Lecuona", Banderilla, Veracruz, Dec. 1939. A plant, from these cuttings, first bloomed in the late spring of 1944. In Banderilla *E. Ackermannii* is known as "Flor de Mayo. In "Las Cactaceas de Mexico" Helia Bravo writes, "it has been collected wild in the forest of Veracruz, in the vicinity of Orizaba. W. B. Hemsley, in *Biologia Centrali-Americana*" states that *Phyllocactus ackermanni* was collected at Izhuatlancillo—near Orizaba—by Bourgeau. Ex-residents of Orizaba I have met refer to "red pitahaya flowers" brought into Orizaba, by the Indios during May. No doubt these are *E. Ackermannii*, although flowers of *Heliocereus* would also answer the description.

Nopalxochia phyllanthoides, under any name, is a species that "belongs". It appears to have escaped suspicion of hybrid origin, but is even less known in the wild than *Epiphyllum Ackermannii*. The only reference I have discovered, as to its possible habitat, is in Vol. 50 of "Biologia Centrali-Americana" from which comes this quotation, "growing on trunks of trees among orchids . . . Southern Mexico, near

Tlacolula." Today trees are scarce near Tlacolula, orchids still scarcer, and *Nopalxochia*? Also, cultivated plants, of *Nopalxochia phyllanthoides*, are missing in this region and that is usually good evidence. Conversely, because of plants—to be seen from the train—at native houses between Cordoba and Orizaba, I believe this region to be the more likely habitat. Some years ago I noted "Epiphyllums" growing on forest trees near Xuchiles—on the R. R. between Cordoba and Tierra Blanca—"with pads like those of *Nopalxochia phyllanthoides*, but longer". That was before I knew true *Epiphyllum Ackermannii*, which I now believe these plants to have been. In "Las Cactaceas de Mexico", under *Nopalxochia*, Helia Bravo merely states. "Su patria es Mexico."

Epiphyllum crenatum is another species that seems to appear in most lists. It is rather widely spread, in somewhat scattered groups, on higher altitudes of Oaxaca and Chiapas. These show much variation, and perhaps consist of several closely related species. In any case systematic study is needed.

Chiapasia Nelsonii perhaps completes the list of popular "orchid cacti" native to Mexico, but here the writer has to admit lack of observations.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912. Of Cactus and Succulent Journal, published monthly at Pasadena, for October, 1945, State of California, County of Los Angeles.

Before me, a notary in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Scott E. Haselton, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor-Publisher of the CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Scott E. Haselton, Box 101, Pasadena.
2. That the owner is: CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC., and leased to SCOTT E. HASELTON, who created and has published said magazine to date.
3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None. Cactus and Succulent Society is a nonprofit organization and issues no stock.

SCOTT E. HASELTON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1st day of October, 1945
CHESTER R. PYLE, Notary.

*Cactus and Succulent Journal, July, 1944.



FIG. 93

Adromischus spheonophyllus C. A. Sm. approx. X0.2

Adromischus spheonophyllus

By J. R. BROWN

This plant with its large and broad leaves is quite distinct from other members of the genus in cultivation in this country.

Baker in Saunder's *Refugium Botanicum* t. 36 figures a plant under the name *Cotyledon rhombifolia* Haw., but as this does not agree with Haworth's description of *Cotyledon rhombifolia*, C. A. Smith* has given the name *Adromischus spheonophyllus* (no doubt referring to the spheonoid or wedge shaped leaves) to this plant. The synonymy of *A. spheonophyllus* is thus (in part) *Cotyledon rhombifolia* Baker; *Adromischus rhombifolius* Berger; *Cotyledon*

triflora Haw.; *Cotyledon triflora* Salm Dyck.

It would seem to be a somewhat slow growing species, the plant shown in the illustration having a stem only 3 cm. tall and is more than 10 years old, Baker's fig. shows a plant with a stem approx. 10 cm. tall.

The leaves are opposite and decussate, to 11.5 cm. long, 5.5 cm. broad at the widest part, and 1.5 cm. thick in the middle of leaf, the apex obtusely pointed, pale glaucous green in color and with a narrow, paler, cartilaginous margin, when grown in the open exposed to the sun usually with darker green flecks in the upper part, the flecks seen in the illustration of a leaf are more obscure than indicated by the photograph.

*A Review of the genus *Adromischus* Lemaire Bothalia III (1939) 624.

The erect peduncle is stout (5 mm. in diam.) and may be simple or variously branched, (the season this plant was photographed it developed only one branch from near the base of the peduncle). The flowers are borne singly towards the base, then in pairs and towards the middle of the inflorescence in threes, then upwards in pairs and finally single flowers.

The green colored calyx is small, about 4 mm. long, including the minute segments. The

perianth tube is green and shining, (and with brownish keels when grown in the open) about 10 mm. long, the pale pink segments about 4 mm. long.

The photographs show a plant of *Adromischus sphenophyllus* C. A. Sm. approx. x 0.2, a face view of a leaf of this plant, nat. size, and the lower part of the main inflorescence approx. x 1.5.



FIG. 94

Face of leaf of *Adromischus sphenophyllus* nat. size

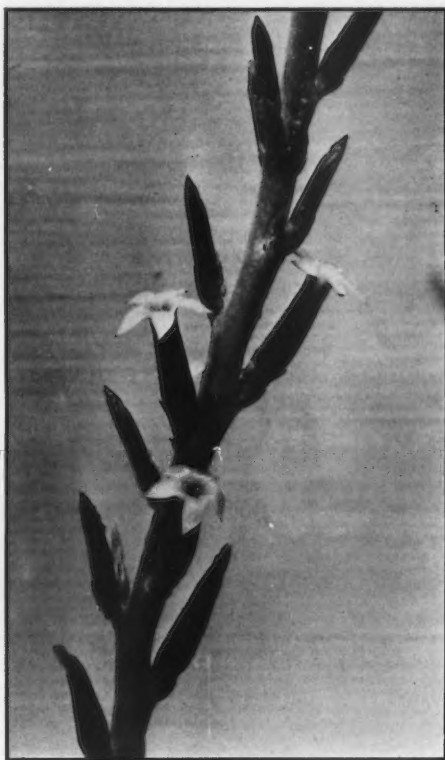


FIG. 95

Flowers of *Adromischus sphenophyllus* approx. X1.5

MEASURING PLANTS AND FLOWERS

In measuring a cactus do you take in the spines and wool? What would you expect if you ordered a four-inch Golden Ball (*Echinocactus grusonii*)? One four inches tall, four inches in diameter, or four inches across including the spines? In measuring a flower do you measure across the petals as they grow or do you flatten them out and add the length of two petals plus the width of the throat? We would like to get the opinions of dealers and customers as soon as possible.

THE NEW EPIPHYLLUM BOOK

Because of the heavy demand for this new book scheduled for November delivery we request dealers not to take orders until after the first of the year. We will be fortunate to be able to fill the orders of those who have written for a copy to be reserved for them—all these letters are on file and you will be notified when the books are ready for delivery. After January first all dealers will receive circulars which can be mailed to their customers.

SCOTT E. HASELTON.

Do You Know the Bromeliads?

By MULFORD B. FOSTER

PART II

Tillandsia Lindeniana, one of the most outstanding Tillandsias, has been known to horticulture for many years. As a native of the Andes of Peru and Ecuador it enjoys the cool mountains, but is quite adaptable to lower altitudes. This is a many leafed rosette plant with glabrous leaves, but strangely, it thrives under nearly the same conditions as those that are heavily coated with peltate scales. Its large iris-like royal purple flowers uncurling from a cerise and green spike make it a decorative bromeliad never to be forgotten. The flowers are much larger than most bromeliad flowers and last three to four days each. Thus a plant may send forth one flower at a time from the flattened spike and continue to bloom over a period of eight to ten weeks. This *T. Lindeniana* does not propagate nor increase rapidly and from seed most of the Tillandsias take anywhere from 8 to 12 years before they mature to flowering stage. While this *T. Lindeniana* plant has been in collections possibly longer than any other Tillandsia it is still a rare and much prized

plant, and is likely to remain as such for many years to come. I have tried for nearly fifteen years to pollinize these flowers, hoping to get some seed, but so far, no success!

Tillandsia Lindenii closely resembles *T. Lindeniana*, in fact a mature plant seven to eight inches high might resemble a half grown one of the former species. The flower spike is shorter and the flower smaller, but it is darker in color. A very desirable plant but still more rare than *Lindeniana*.

Tillandsia anceps, another one of this same group, is closely allied. The plant is most difficult to tell from *Lindeniana* or *Lindenii*. The flowers, however, are white and small. This species has a great range and is found in Panama, Trinidad, and Bolivia, but it has been rare in horticulture in this country.

These are three of the Tillandsias in a group having similar shape, but without the usual tomentose leaves characteristic of so many Tillandsias.

Tillandsia grandis is such a different Tilland-



FIG. 96

Tillandsia Lindenii. An attractive rosette of narrow leaves from which emerges a sparkling, flattened flower spike whose gentle pink bracts hold deep lavender flowers which bloom during a period of several weeks alternating on each side of the inflorescence.



FIG. 97

Tillandsia grandis. The giant Tillandsia makes a perfect rock garden plant. It is an urn-like plant with glaucous green leaves having a spread from four to five feet at maturity. The branched flower stalk grows to over ten feet. Shown on high rocks in Mexico.

sia in habitat and appearance and makes such a perfect rock garden plant that it deserves acquaintance by succulent fans. It is a giant Tillandsia thousands of times larger than its diminutive cousin, the Spanish Moss. Its green leaves when mature, are about six inches wide and give the urn-like plant a full spread of from four to five feet at maturity. The center of this giant rosette of leaves, which may hold a gallon of water, produces a great branched flower stalk of over ten feet. The seed capsules on this one plant may contain possibly 60,000 seeds. But very few seedlings develop, however, from that many seeds. The chances for favorable lodgment among the rocks are few in the rough, rocky terrain where this Tillandsia likes to live. Those that do reach maturity display an imposing spectacle to the bromeliad collector. Instead of seeking partial shade on trees, this great epiphyte has become saxicolous and finds its

happiness' exposed to full sun, attached to bare rocks jutting out on sheer precipices high above a valley in Mexico at an elevation of 5000 feet.

This giant Tillandsia is rather an exception to most bromeliads, in that very small plants start at its base long before the parent has matured. And, strange to say, the young plants have an entirely different character and appearance than that of the Mother plant, which has glabrous green leaves, while the baby plants have the very fuzzy appearance of the typical Tillandsia. The two plants are so different that they seem to be entirely different species! Mother Nature provides the means of the young one to retain an adequate amount of water on its leaves during the long dry spells, until it develops larger leaves which will hold water in the basal leaf cups.

Space does not permit discussion of more Tillandsias. The genus is large and its hundreds of species could keep any collector busy for years.

BILLBERGIA

Among the bromeliads, Billbergias are perhaps the most popularly known leafy tank epiphytes. *Billbergia nutans*, and many hybrids thereof are some of the most common species used in so many dish gardens. Their preval-



FIG. 98

Tillandsia grandis among cacti and succulents in my rock garden, Orlando, Florida.

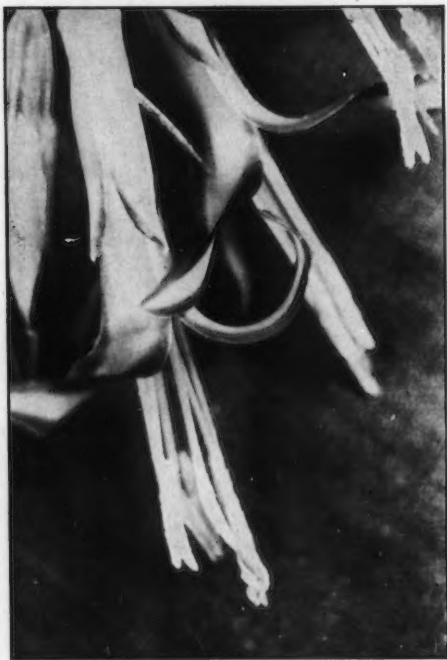


FIG. 99

A close-up of *Billbergia nutans*, whose delicately tinted pendant flowers, of green, edged with blue against delicate pink bracts complimented by large yellow stamens, hold much delight for the indoor gardener.

ence is, undoubtedly, due to their ease of culture and their habit of multiplying rapidly by off-shoots and their rapid maturing from seed in about three years.

One of the most interesting Billbergias, unknown in this country until I introduced it from Brazil in 1940, is *Billbergia Meyeri*. It is a tall, thin, tube-like plant of gray-brown foliage mottled profusely with its peltate scales. Its pendant inflorescence of pink, lavender and yellow colors is a lovely surprise. It is a thrilling experience to see this flower bloom. You can actually see the petals curl back like a spring, exposing the long green stamens. *B. Meyeri* should make an excellent succulent house plant, and can be neglected considerably, as it comes from dry, barren sections of land where there is a long dry season.

Billbergia zebrina is a close brother to *Meyeri* in shape of plant but is larger; it has more vivid, lighter bands of peltate scales which make it a very decorative plant, and while the strong flower-scape is also pendant, the luscious rose bracts of *B. zebrina* make it more spectacular than *Meyeri*.

These two Billbergias, as well as *B. Porteana*, another species of this group are much slower in propagation than other Billbergias so have never been common in horticulture.

Billbergia pyramidalis, "Foolproof Plant," is a lovely urn-shaped air plant rather widely used in Florida gardens. It adapts itself well to ground culture of sandy soil. It is one of the few Billbergias that has an upright inflorescence, which is a prominent head of red petals edged with a flush of iridescent blue. The common type blooms in the late summer, but in 1939 I found a phase which blooms in mid-winter. This phase has a glaucous cast to the leaves while the other one has a more glabrous leaf.

Billbergia Saundersii has been in cultivation for many years. This species has several phases, from green leaves to highly colored and spotted leaves. It has been known as *B. rosea*, *B. rubra-cyanea*, *B. Sanderi* and several other synonyms. The brilliant deep red bracts and dark blue flowers are very showy. The plant itself, while of a tubular shape appears to be a bit twisted which allows one side open for a short distance down from the top. It was used as parentage in several of the old Billbergia hybrids.

To be continued

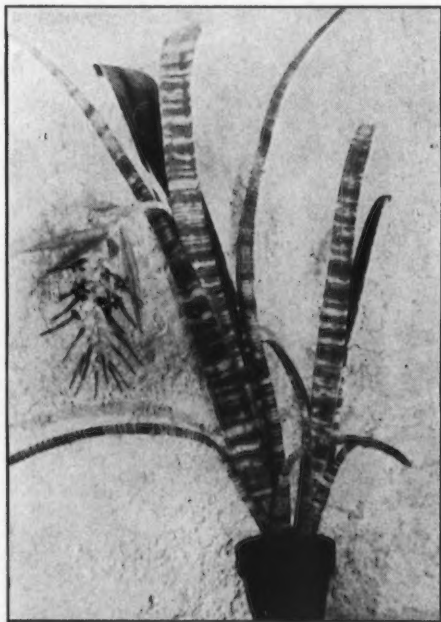


FIG. 100

Billbergia zebrina. This tall formal, vividly banded green gray plant is one of the most striking among Billbergias. Luscious rose bracts hang over brilliantly colored purple flowers as they droop on the pendent inflorescence.

Cacti in England

By E. SHURLY

Cacti is not a cult in England. Some people know what cacti are, but the majority think it is a general name covering any succulent plant and the florists and nurseries very often class sempervivums, crassulas, etc., as cacti. Botanically the retailers of plants, generally speaking, are woefully ignorant. And that same comment applies equally, but not quite so forceably to those who collect cacti. The majority know the difference between a cactus and a succulent, but in all other respects they share the comment on retailers of plants. There is hardly any cult, botanically speaking, in this country. Officially I should say there are not more than half a dozen persons who could be accepted as understanding the plants botanically. The overwhelming majority are sincerely and truly interested in cacti as queer, interesting plants, but a study of them is not of interest. Students are a rarity.

They have a fine collection at Kew which is sadly neglected owing to lack of staff, but even there I find that the interest is not what one would like, although I must pay tribute to the wonderful way in which they give access and help to any serious student who applies to them and I can personally vouch for this as I have received the greatest amount of assistance and understanding when I was collecting my material of Mammillarias. Another Society that is not really interested in cacti but is extremely generous in its helpfulness is the Royal Horticultural Society and again I can personally vouch for their kindness. I have also visited, while researching, various museums, etc., but in each of them I seem to have got the impression they had a comic crank visiting them—who wanted to know anything about cacti. They were helpful, it is true, but there is the atmosphere.

A few, very few, really do understand cacti and they are split fairly equally between people who can claim to the title of botanists by training and those who have grasped their knowledge by study and experience usually in later life. Of the two I prefer the amateur botanist. He or she is usually fairly open minded and willing to look at the matter from all sides for the benefit they can get out of the study, but the trained man or woman is full of prejudices and cliques. If you are not a trained, degreed botanist in England you do not get any recognition, only a degree will give you a status to be listened to. On one occasion when an exhibition was being discussed, I deplored the granting by our Society of a diploma to an exhibit of what was called *Mammillaria plumosa columnaris* (I be-

lieve this was the variety named). There is no published description of such a variety and I felt that an authoritative society should not encourage the dissemination of a name that had not properly been described. The trained botanists disagreed with me. They stated that it was open to anyone to name a plant any name he liked and that the naming of an undescribed variety did not disqualify. I agree it is open to everyone, but proper description should always be encouraged and in this instance I did not consider the elongating of a globular head which might be due to too much shade as justification for a new variety.

Interest in cacti was at such a low ebb before the formation of the British Society that the R.H.S. had a judge for cacti who was guilty of the following incident. Peculiarly enough, the owner of the *M. plumosa* mentioned above was also the person showing a collection of cacti and succulents which in this class was deservedly the most entitled to a prize if not the first. When the awards were made it was found to our astonishment that our member had not even had a mention. As a matter of interest I asked the judge why he overlooked the stand in question, to be informed that although it was without doubt the best display in the section it could not be awarded anything as it contained plants that were not succulents and the plant in question was *Euphorbia splendens*. His explanation was that it was well known that Euphorbias were poisonous! His lack of knowledge of what constituted a succulent and his stated reason that, in consequence, the plant was not edible created a situation that was humorous but baffling.

That was the state of cacti in this country so few years ago and it is only a little better now with an almost entire lack of real scientific interest in our plants and it is obvious that it would be a very hard time for the man or woman who proposed to alter it with a long period of disappointment and frustration before he might have a chance of drumming in some idea. A very drastic condemnation indeed, but I can assure you that outside of the only too few the comment is correct and fair.

Small plants can be purchased at most of the florists and nurseries but mature plants can only be obtained from a few establishments. The small seedlings which used to retail pre-war at 6d. or 9d. were grown by all sorts of people. In this country the market was largely supplied by Swedes, Belgians, Dutch, etc., and I know of

only one firm who largely supplied the shops. The naming was execrable, but the condition of the plants was generally very good although, owing to tradition that cacti hardly ever want water, they were frequently met in a very dry condition indeed. The firm in this country to whom I have referred supplied largely to Woolworth's who used to sell at 6d. It is from such beginnings that most of our "fanciers" started. Horticultural collections, outside of public gardens, rarely include cacti. Kew, of course, has the largest followed by Manchester with the Barrah collection which is quite well kept. Other towns have collections, but these two are the most prominent. One very often finds a collection of cacti in a bed in public parks and in cemeteries—of all places! These plants in parks and cemeteries are put out for the summer only and it is surprising to see in what good condition they are to be found.

One grower in the Isle of Wight, Mr. Cooper, used to grow even prickly pears in the open garden bedded down in under sea sand and he got fine results, but outdoor culture is extremely difficult in this country owing to the humid conditions. Where the atmosphere and soil are so humid the plants are not happy and soon die; only in the extreme south and southwest could the slightest success be achieved.

Occasionally one sees cacti and succulents in small window gardens and generally where one is found one finds a number of others for obvious reasons, but, generally speaking, the specimens are not good because of the tradition of dryness already referred to. No particular plants seem to preponderate outside of *Aporocactus flagelliformis* and *Epiphyllum Ackermannii*, the latter frequently flowering with its large, red blooms. Next in popularity are the various *Echinopsis*. Otherwise the rest are only represented by occasional specimens here and there. In fact, the window garden in England is not a home of cacti like one finds in German, Holland, Belgium, etc. It is far from a cult and it can only be explained owing to the nearly complete lack of understanding and the dissemination of false information how to look after them. At the same time, cheap books on how to grow cacti have quite a good sale and it is surprising that plants are not better grown.

There are, of course, many quite good collections in private hands and their owners obviously take a pride in their possession, quite justifiably. But there are few specialists. The general collection is very general and in consequence genera are invariably represented by only a few species. Where one finds a specialist, it is usually among succulents; Lithops and similar Mesembryanthemums seem to be very popular.

On real cacti I do not know of any real specialist beyond my own Mammillarias.

A few people grow from seed and a very few successfully, but most get a packet, sow them, damp them off and lose interest. I have tried again and again to grow from seed, but have always failed. For my particular kind of study and work I must have mature plants and always imported so that seeds were purely an interest and not a serious one. One of our members, Mr. Boarder, had a real genius in growing from seed and had wonderful success in keeping them growing which is the most difficult task, but the general comment seems to be that he kept them soft and in consequence when they changed hands they were soon lost under new treatment.

To be continued

HOW TO MAKE CHRISTMAS CACTI BLOOM BY CHRISTMAS

By MRS. CLYDE O. PULSE
Oklahoma City

This plant went under the name of *Epiphyllum* for a long time, but is now known as *Zygocactus*. A book we have which was published in Germany, gives "*Epiphyllum truncatum* le Visuro" as the name of the Christmas Cactus.

If grafted, a 2-year-old plant will make an umbrella with lovely blossoms as a fringe. My experience is that grafting this plant is most successful on *Pereskia*.

1. Graft in January or plant on its own roots in February for winter blooming.
2. Place plant in the lightest place you have.
3. Spray every two weeks with Nursery Volck (a medium solution). This plant is easy prey for mealy bugs, scale and red spider.
4. At the end of June, place plant in a shady place to rest until September. Do not water much throughout the summer.
5. When starting the growing in September, put 1 teaspoon full of Vigoro around the edge of the pot and repeat this feeding every three months.

6. Always let the soil dry before watering again so that it will not sour.

7. A soil mixture we find best is one-half sand, one-quarter garden loam and one-quarter well rotted cow manure.

To root cuttings, plant deeply in loose peat moss, almost to cover the entire cutting. This brings the roots out at every joint and will make a strong young plant to start with.

ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVE

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America and Abbey Garden Press have appointed Mr. E. Lamb to take subscriptions to the JOURNAL and to supply books to our friends in England. Address W. T. Neale and Co., Franklin Road, Worthing, Sussex, England.

AFFILIATE NOTES

Please mail your Affiliate Notes to Chas. A. Place, 5048 Hook Tree Road, Rt. 1, Box 388T, La Canada, California.

SPEED IN OKLAHOMA.

The scene is a beautiful little Spanish-style hacienda in Oklahoma City. Mary Polaski is out in the number three greenhouse laying out a nice quiet day's work for herself. Charlie Polaski, who has not gone into action for the day as yet, is sitting in a semi-reclining position in the old arm chair, dreaming over the high-lights of their trip through old Mexico, from which they have just returned.

Camera—Action.

The postman is seen coming up the walk with his bag of mail. A portion of which he hands to Charlie, who meets him at the door. Prominent among the handful of letters, bills, etc. is the "Journal", which of course Charlie opens first of all. There on the very first page staring him in the eyes is the announcement of the Annual Meeting of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America to be held at the Famous Cactus Gardens of Howard Gates near Corona, Calif.

"Oh Mary," Charlie calls.

"What is it?" answers Mary from the greenhouse.

"How soon can you be packed and ready for a trip?"

"'Bout fifteen minutes", answers Mary nonchalantly, "Er, where're we going?"

"California."

"Well it listens good. What's it for?"

"We're going to attend the annual meeting of the Society, to be held October 14th."

"That will be Sunday, this is Thursday. Let's get going."

An old grandfather's clock flashes on the screen; at the expiration of exactly seventeen minutes ticked off by the old family heirloom, what appeared to be an armoured car was seen going down the street and headed west with Charles and Mary sitting up in front.

NOTE. Charles and Mary Polaski are members of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Oklahoma, one of our outstanding Affiliates. They arrived on time and needless to say have been busily engaged in affiliating ever since.

Chas. R. Cole, (R.V.P.) writes:

"The K. I. O. Cactus Club, at their regular meeting, September 22, elected the following officers: President, Lloyd F. Combs; Vice-Pres., Henry H. Seilkop; Treas., Harold Ranshaw; Rec. Secy., Mrs. R. Hogue; Cor. Secy., Mrs. G. E. Goens; Door-prize-taylor, A. Wehrenberg. The 90th annual Greater Cincinnati Carthage Fair closed its four day programme September 15th. The Fair was a great success. The onlookers were some times three and four deep along the twenty foot table in the north east corner of the horticultural building. There were about 40,000 at the Fair each of the four days and it seemed that more than half of them came by our table. Four 'Cacti for the Amateur' and four 'Succulents for the Amateur', went before noon of the second day as did fifty copies of the little 'Cacti and Succulents and how to Grow Them'. Anything else that we could dig up for sale was rooted out and brought to the card table to be sold and the name of prospective members taken. We took one first and two second prizes. This is the first year there has been a cactus show and the plans for next year will be under way in about two weeks and the prizes will amount to more than the entry fee. The 80 square feet this year was too small for much of a show

but the publicity made up for it. Our Radio Programme seems to have bogged down because of a change in personnel at the station, more about that later."

A wonderful undertaking, well carried out.

Jack Barker, (Sec.) writes:

"The Denver Cactus and Succulent Society has decided to continue regular meetings now that members are able to pursue their hobbies again. Our meetings will be held on the last Friday of each month at 7:30 P. M. Our program will be a drive to revive interest in cacti and succulents which suffered during the war. The President is Miss Muriel Colburn, Mr. J. H. Barker is Secretary and Mr. Hollingsworth is Treasurer. You'll hear more from us in the near future so keep tuned in."

I'll set my dial at D.C.S.S.

Mrs. Radden, (Pres.) writes:

"Beverly Hill Cactus Club met September 4, in Mrs. Mary Vandervort's gorgeous garden. We had a plant market and the money made was used for a sick member for flowers. Mrs. Vandervort has a lovely collection of Cactus. Mrs. A. G. Baldwin has become a member and we welcome her. Plants were given to each member by Mrs. Radden. October 2. Our charming hostess Mrs. Nellie May had us meet in her home and we enjoyed seeing her nice cactus collection. Subjects, Epiphyllums and plant galls. One guest present. Door prize for each member given by Mrs. Radden."

We're strong for Beverly Hills, whether California or Chicago.

From the Bulletin of the Southern California Cactus Exchange, Muriel Merrell, Editor:

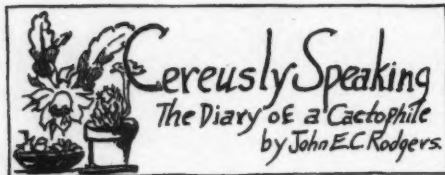
"The September meeting was a huge success. Our S.O.S. for cacti was rewarded with a fine collection for our 'boys' at Birmingham Hospital, and their letter of gratitude will be read to us this month. The Open Forum discussion was on, the blue night-light for improved bloom, suggestion by Mrs. Thurtell. Miss Padilla gave her thrilling trip thru a breathtakingly beautiful tunnel of wild Epiphyllums in the jungle country near Orizaba, Mexico. An article authorized by Mrs. Cherry was read, entitled, 'What is wrong with my plant?' Outstanding was our hostess, Mrs. A. Flickinger. How our hearts went out to her has she told of her fruitless but ever-hopeful quest for a true yellow Epiphyllum. The search spanning a period of years resulted in a collection of 239 plants."

From the Cactus Digest of the Henry Shaw Cactus Society, Lad Cutak, Editor:

"At the September meeting, Dr. Ruediger prepared a very fine paper on Echinofossulocactus. It is hoped it will be printed because all members who did not hear him should be able to read it, it was very much worth while . . . By the time you get this issue you will be storing most of your cacti indoors, for frosts are likely in the Northern and Midwestern States."

From "Our Cacti", by Mrs. Anna M. Frank:

. . . I have a number of Crassulas among my succulents that I admire very much. The genus *Crassula* contains a large number of plants of widely differing growth, creeping, prostrate, clustered, shrubby, some even moss-like and others stone-mimics. Their flowers individually small, are heavily musk-scented and are borne in large clusters, as varying in form as are their growth habits. The great majority of them are greenish, but there are enough red, pink, yellow, and white ones to satisfy the grower. Try them in your collection, you won't be sorry."



November 2. Warm today, 72°. Epiphyllum (with orange pink flowers) in bloom for second time this year. Has rounded spiny stems which flatten out into regular Epiphyllum stems. Bears abuse, dry weather, continued wet weather, no sun for weeks, yet never fails to bloom. 9° below in Manitoba, I read. All my plants are in. Let them dry out thoroughly after the September and October rains before resuming watering schedule for winter storage. Southwestern cacti have been on shelf for over a month. No water, unless my misguided self thinks they're too dry, then not more than once every two weeks until late February. Fall rains encouraged new growth on my Epiphyllums, Harrisias, Selenicerei (smaller plants, and still movable), Pereskias, Rhipsalis, Aporocacti, Echeverias, and Ceropegias. So far I've been able to judge the "correct time" and to scurry about just before the first real freeze. Weather record since 1933 helps.

November 5. Letter from Journal subscriber Hauf, Birmingham, England. Reads column, sent list of plants; several Mammillarias which I would like to own. Envelope had paper saving flap which sealed opened edge. Had been used twice before. Makes us Americans wish we'd saved more paper. Spine bugs disappeared from plants set on ground under grape arbor during summer. Those hanging up still have a few. Trouble at present to say which of my insect friends did it, but it was done. Even egg sacs disappeared. So far my insect friends in my greenhouse are centipedes, jumping spiders, "white-tipped" sand wasps and sow-bugs.

November 8. Warm. Opened ventilators and door. Took *Portulacaria afra*, *Euphorbia splendens*, and *Mesembryanthemum blandum* to school. Relieved that barren look so common to school rooms. Easy to handle. Water once a week. They do fine. Temperature 70°. Plenty of glass too. In the spring I change plants frequently to acquaint pupils with succulents. Never enough cuttings to satisfy their demands.

November 10. Four blooms on *Epiphyllum cartagense*. Pot bound. Evidently trying to save itself for it has bloomed all summer. Some authorities claim a plant in a tight situation will try to set seed to perpetuate itself. I gave it a top-dressing of pulverized chicken manure and sand in equal proportions in July. Kept it in partial shade near ventilator so it was not too great a shock when it was moved inside October 21. Temperature down to 29° on October 16 but no harm was done.

November 14. Received inquiry regarding *Rebutia* culture. Gave them the benefit of my experience with this genus (see *Cactus Journal*, August, 1944). Like rich soil with good drainage. Never should be left entirely dry at the roots, but too wet is equally deadly. Do well on their own roots, but better grafted where blooms do not have to come up through soil as *Rebutia minuscula*. Mealy bugs on roots seem to cause the most losses. The healthiest plants I have are often the least likely to flower. Some plants of this genus are sterile, I'm sure.

November 19. *Rhipsalis tucumanensis* bloomed. Buds on *Pseudorhipsalis micrantha* one-fourth inch long. *florum X daigremontianum*, with parent plant types on either side. Gave information that this plant showed one of the best illustrations of the way hybrids have characteristics of both parents. Helped to teach the Mendelian theory. Exhibition caused over a hundred requests for plants. Did I give them gladly? You bet I did. I still have more than I gave away. One "with billions" is over 8 feet tall. Hollywood palms? Houghton hybrids?—well, I calls them pests.

November 19. *Rhipsalis tucumanensis* bloomed. Buds on *Pseudorhipsalis micrantha* one-fourth inch long. Need to get back into the pure "joy and forgetfulness" of my greenhouse paradise to work and study. So many things to keep me busy I'm driven to do only that which I must do all week. "Saturday night is the *not* the loneliest time of the week" because I get "a few minutes" to work among my Xerophytes. Life can get so full of trivial affairs, it's discouraging. I'm starting my own "re-conversion program", two hours a day to relax and do the things I want to do.

November 23. No cold turkey for me this year for a week to come. I've made reservations at a local "Duncan Hines Recommend" restaurant. Sent in my December "Cereusly Speaking" to Scott, but he'd have been glad to have seen it earlier. *Rhipsalis* starting to shrivel slightly. Will mean blooms in the spring if they're allowed to become almost dry from November to February.

November 26. Blooms that opened on *Rhipsalis tucumanensis* one week ago closed up. Christmas cacti in bud. Need vigorous growth during summer to have best display in early winter. *Gibbaeum* (*Rimaria*) *beatii* with eight silvery green heads is interesting. Never has bloomed for me. I like it just the same, though.

November 28. Letter off to Tony Evanoski, (Soldier now), Wilkes-Barre Cactophile. Has large specimen of *Sansevieria trifasciata* variety *laurentii*. Told him about spicata, cylindrica, Hahnii (Hahn's hybrid), aethiopica and para, which I have and guineensis and schmidtii which I haven't but would like. Beginning to pour over my Catalogs again. Healthy sign for a normal person right now. Isn't it, brother and sister Cactophiles?

November 30. Cold weather here, 22°. Hard coal burner working full blast. Sun shone only five days. Two cacti, *Pereskia aculeata* and *Zygocactus truncatus* bloomed for the first time this year. *Faucarias* bloomed their sunshine-yellow flowers to make up for the 25 cloudy days. 124° of excess temperature. Normal temperature went from 47° to 33°. Have reduced watering to once every 5 days. Hope my plants are dormant and that the buds will not be damaged by my unintentional oversights. I'm already thinking of my "Spring glory", blooms.

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SCOTT HASELTON

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SPINE CHATS

LADISLAUS CUTAK



Last month an attempt was made to give you some interesting facts about our friend, Alain White of the STAPELIEAE and SUCCULENT EUPHORBIEAE fame. It is fitting now that you should know something of his collaborator, Mr. Boyd L. Sloane of Pasadena, California. These two gentlemen met for the first time when Mr. White visited Sloane's collection in December of 1930. It was then that Mr. White suggested making a joint collection of succulent plants. From the start a general collection was made but shortly after it was decided to specialize in the little known Stapeliads with the intention that notes and observations might be kept on this group about which little published material was available. Thus a series of articles on the subject was inaugurated in the CACTUS JOURNAL which culminated in the initial monograph on the STAPELIEAE released to the public in 1933. Four years later a more thorough and comprehensive edition was published in three volumes, followed by a magnificent work on the SUCCULENT EUPHORBIEAE in 1941, for which contributions the South African Biological Society awarded them "The Capt. Scott Medal," individually. This medal is not generally awarded to scientists outside Africa except in very outstanding cases.

Mr. Boyd L. Sloane became interested in cacti and other succulents shortly after moving to California from New Jersey in 1923. His interest in the plants was firmly established after attending the first public meeting of what became the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Later he became secretary of the organization and in 1931 and 1932 guided its destinies as president. He has served on the club's Executive Board continuously since its inception. His succulent collection was begun while secretary of the Society and during the years the books were in preparation, an extensive collection of stapeliads and spurge was maintained at 1421 Dominion Avenue, in Pasadena. Most of the plants were imports or grown from imported seeds. Messrs. White and Sloane are to be congratulated for the many new species they introduced in this country.

Outside of his hobby, Mr. Sloane's life work is centered in education. He has been an educator practically all his life, serving as principal of elementary schools in New Jersey and in California. At the present he is principal of the George Ellery Hale School in Pasadena. His education was gotten at Teachers College, Columbia University, but he also attended the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Southern California, and the Occidental College.

Despite all the above interests he is looking forward to the time when he can retire to his favorite desert spot, Twenty-nine Palms, California.

Our good friend, Dr. Charles F. Swingle, horticulturist, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, who will be remembered for his introduction of Madagascan succulents to the United States, left Washington recently for Tingo Maria, Peru, where he will serve as horticulturist at the Cooperative Agricultural Experiment Station indefinitely. This station lays claim to being the first international cooperative station to be founded in the Americas

and is located in the beautiful Huallega River Valley in the eastern foothills of the Andes Mountains. The cooperative program now being carried on at Tingo Maria has to do with developing varieties and strains of rubber, quinine, manila fiber, insecticidal plants and other complementary products. Agricultural activity in these strategic commodities was started soon after the memorable Pearl Harbor incident, when the Japanese cut off our former supplies. It was then that our Government in co-operation with other Latin American countries began the establishment of stations in Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala to insure a stable and plentiful supply of these highly important commodities essential both to the prosecution of successful warfare and to a high standard of living in peacetime. We are hoping that Dr. Swingle may get an opportunity to study Peruvian cacti of the Lima region and favor us with interesting anecdotes about them.

Now that the war is over we are anxious to find out what effect the debacle had on cactus fans in Europe. Even while the war was raging several good reports came in from soldiers who wrote that cacti appeared in many windows and plants were being sold, especially in Belgium and Holland. Back in 1935, my good friend Bedrich Weingart, editor of KAKTUSAR, confided that Brno in Moravia was the most cactus-minded city in Czechoslovakia, there being one bona fide cactus fan to each 3,000 inhabitants. In Praha, the nation's capital, the ratio was 1 to 6,500. He also made the claim that if there had been as many cactus members in the whole Republic as there were in Brno in the same ratio then his club could easily put out an illustrated weekly magazine or it could annually outfit two of its members to collect cacti in either North or South America.

Three new species of *Haworthia* and five additional varieties have made their appearance in succulent literature recently. The new species are *H. Otzenii*, *H. longibracteata* and *H. Comptoniana*. All three belong to the *Retusae* group. The first is named for its discoverer, Mr. M. Otzen, a well known South African succulent enthusiast, and is related to *H. retusa* var. *mutica*; the second is compared to *H. retusa* but differs in a much longer and more upright rosette of leaves; while the third is likewise nearest to *H. retusa* but readily distinguished from it by its color and the very distinct reticulate lines on the end-area. The five new varieties are *H. viscosa* var. *cougaensis*, *H. viscosa* var. *viridissima*, *H. asperiuscula* var. *sub-integra*, *H. Reinwardtii* var. *bellula*, and *H. Dekenabii* var. *argenteo-maculosa*. The first three belong in the *Trijariae* group, which is characterized by short, stiff, pointed leaves arranged in three rows and becoming quite caulescent in age; the fourth is a pretty, neat, upright plant, growing in dense clusters and the smallest of the many varietal forms of *H. Reinwardtii*; the last is a member of the "window-leaved" *Haworthias* with short longitudinal whitish flecks appearing on the windowed surface. For detailed descriptions of the above plants you are referred to the *Journal of South African Botany* (11: 65-78, April, 1945). G. G. Smith is the author of the new *Haworthia* names.

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*Author of "Brazil, Orchid of the Tropics" (collecting bromeliads).

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